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EXAMINER

CHEN, CHONGSHAN

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/842,370	<b>Applicant(s)</b> WIESLER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Chongshan Chen	<b>Art Unit</b> 2172	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2003.

2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

**Attachment(s)**

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
PTOL-326 (Rev. 11-03)

Office Action Summary

Part of Paper No. 8

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment A, filed on November 13, 2003. This action is made final.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments, see page 15-16, filed on November 13, 2003, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1 and 16 under 102(b) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Burdick et al. ("Burdick", 6,148,307). Lambson does not explicitly disclose a central reticle database (the amended claims point out that the central reticle database is a separate entity form the stocker database). Burdick teach a central database (Burdick, col. 3, lines 20-27, global database). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a central reticle database in the system of Lambson in order to standardize data format in the stocker database and store the data in a central database for easy access and retrieval.

3. As per applicant's arguments regarding claim 20, Lambson does not teach a central database have been considered but are not persuasive. This claim is different from the other independent claim 1 and 16, because claim 1 and 16 point out that the central reticle database is a separate entity form the stocker database, while this independent claim claims a database stores reticle, but it does not point out the central reticle database is a separate entity form the stocker database. Lambson teaches a database stores reticle. Therefore, the argument is not persuasive. Furthermore, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., where the reticles are

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not stored at a particular stocker) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-3, 11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burdick et al. ("Burdick", 6,148,307) in view of Lambson et al. ("Lambson", "Automated reticle transport and stepper loading", Solid State Technology, V39, n10, p97, Oct. 1996, ISSN: 0038-111X).

As per claim 1, Burdick discloses an apparatus for managing data corresponding to a plurality of reticles in a semiconductor manufacturing system including a plurality of processing stages, the apparatus comprising:

a central reticle database configured and arranged to store data associated with each of the plurality of reticles (Burdick, col. 3, lines 20-27, global database);

a reticle management controller coupled to the central reticle database, the reticle management controller configured and arranged to store and retrieve data from the central reticle database (Burdick, col. 3, lines 7-32);

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the reticle management controller coupled to the stocker controller, the reticle management controller configured and arranged to retrieve at least a portion of the data stored within the central reticle database corresponding to each of the at least one reticles stored within the plurality of storage locations (Burdick, col. 3, lines 7-32).

Burdick does not explicitly disclose a stocker including a stocker controller, a stocker database, and a plurality of storage locations configured and arranged to store at least one of the plurality of reticles, the stocker controller coupled to the stocker database, the stocker controller configured and arranged to store at least a portion of the plurality data corresponding to the at least one of the plurality of reticles stored within the plurality of storage locations within the stocker database. Lambson teaches a stocker including a stocker controller, a stocker database, and a plurality of storage locations configured and arranged to store at least one of the plurality of reticles, the stocker controller coupled to the stocker database, the stocker controller configured and arranged to store at least a portion of the plurality data corresponding to the at least one of the plurality of reticles stored within the plurality of storage locations within the stocker database (Lambson, page 1-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a stocker controller and a stocker database in the system of Burdick in order to store and organize data in the stocker.

As per claim 2, Burdick and Lambson teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, and further disclose the data corresponding to each of the plurality of reticles stored in the central reticle database includes a plurality of reticle identifying data (Burdick, Fig. 4 & 4A-4Q, col. 10, lines 44-45).

As per claim 3, Burdick and Lambson teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 2, and further disclose the plurality of reticle identifying data includes an attribute identifying the reticle; an attribute identifying the location of the reticle (Burdick, Fig. 4 & 4A-4Q, col. 10, lines 41-55).

As per claim 11, Burdick and Lambson teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, and further disclose a central system database configured and arranged to store data corresponding to the system requirements of the plurality of reticles; and the reticle management controller coupled to the central system database, the reticle management controller configured and arranged to store and retrieve system data from the central system database (Burdick, col. 3, lines 7-32).

As per claim 15, Burdick and Lambson teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, and further disclose a plurality of stockers, each of the plurality of stockers including a stocker controller, a stocker database, and a plurality of storage locations configured and arranged to store at least one of the plurality of reticles, the stocker controller configured and arranged to collect at least a portion of the plurality data corresponding to each of the at least one of the plurality of reticles stored within the plurality of storage locations and to store the at least a portion of data within the stocker database; and the reticle management controller coupled to each of the plurality of stocker controllers, the reticle management controller configured and arranged to receive from each of the plurality of stocker controllers and to provide to each of the plurality of stocker controllers, at least a portion of the plurality data corresponding to each of the at least one of the plurality of reticles stored within the plurality of storage locations corresponding to each of the plurality of stockers (Lambson, page 1-5).

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6. Claims 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lambson et al. ("Lambson", "Automated reticle transport and stepper loading", Solid State Technology, V39, n10, p97, Oct. 1996, ISSN: 0038-111X) in view of Burdick et al. ("Burdick", 6,148,307).

As per claim 16, Lambson discloses an apparatus for managing a plurality of reticles in a semiconductor manufacturing system including a plurality of processing stages, the apparatus comprising:

a stocker unit including a stocker controller, a stocker database, and a plurality of storage locations configured and arranged to store at least one of the plurality of reticles (Lambson, page 1-5);

the reticle management controller coupled to the stocker controller, (Lambson, page 1-5);

a reticle moving system configured and arranged to load a reticle at the stocker and deliver the reticle to a destination (Lambson, page 1-2); and

the reticle management controller coupled to the reticle moving system, the reticle management controller configured and arranged to provide one or more move commands to the reticle move system, the reticle move system configured and arranged to receive the one or more move commands and operative to execute the one or more move commands (Lambson, page 1-2).

Lambson does not explicitly disclose a central reticle database configured and arranged to store data corresponding to each of the plurality of reticles; a reticle management controller coupled to the central reticle database, the reticle management controller configured and arranged to store and retrieve data from the central database. Burdick teaches a central reticle database configured and arranged to store data corresponding to each of the plurality of reticles

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(Burdick, col. 3, lines 20-27, global database); a reticle management controller coupled to the central reticle database, the reticle management controller configured and arranged to store and retrieve data from the central database (Burdick, col. 3, lines 7-32). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a central reticle database in the system of Lambson in order to standardize data format in the stocker database and store the data in a central database for easy access and retrieval.

As per claim 17, Lambson and Burdick teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 16, and further disclose the stocker unit is a first stocker unit, and wherein move command includes a command to store the reticle at a second stocker unit (Lambson, page 1-2).

As per claim 18, Lambson and Burdick teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 16, and further disclose the move command includes a command to retrieve the reticle from a second stocker unit (Lambson, page 1-2).

As per claim 19, Lambson and Burdick teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 16, and further disclose the move command includes a command to retrieve the reticle from a second stocker unit, move the reticle to the first stocker unit, and to store the reticle at the first stocker unit (Lambson, page 1-2).

7. Claims 4-10, 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lambson et al. ("Lambson", "Automated reticle transport and stepper loading", Solid State Technology, V39, n10, p97, Oct. 1996, ISSN: 0038-111X) in view of Burdick et al. ("Burdick", 6,148,307) and further in view of "PRI Automation Automation Announces New Combination Reticle Stocker", ("PRI", PR Newswire, p9143, Oct 26, 1999).



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As per claim 4, Lambson and Burdick teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 3, except for explicitly disclosing an attribute identifying a reticle carrier housing the reticle; an attribute identifying a the date and time the reticle was entered into use; and an attribute identifying a user identifier who created the reticle. PRI discloses a reticle management system for complete reticle lifecycle management (PRI, page 1-2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an attribute identifying a reticle carrier housing the reticle; an attribute identifying a the date and time the reticle was entered into use; and an attribute identifying a user identifier who created the reticle in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

As per claim 5, Lambson and Burdick teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, except for explicitly disclosing the data corresponding to each of the plurality of reticles stored in the central reticle database includes a plurality of reticle history data. PRI discloses the data corresponding to each of the plurality of reticles stored in the central reticle database includes a plurality of reticle history data (PRI, page 1-2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

As per claim 6, Lambson and Burdick teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, except for explicitly disclosing an attribute identifying the number of times the reticle has been retrieved; an attribute identifying the date the reticle was last retrieved; an attribute identifying the number of times the reticle has been stored; and an attribute identifying the date

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the reticle was last stored. PRI discloses a reticle management system for complete reticle lifecycle management (PRI, page 1-2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an attribute identifying the number of times the reticle has been retrieved; an attribute identifying the date the reticle was last retrieved; an attribute identifying the number of times the reticle has been stored; and an attribute identifying the date the reticle was last stored in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

As per claim 7, Lambson and Burdick teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, except for explicitly disclosing an attribute identifying a user identifier who last selected the reticle; and an attribute identifying a user identifier who last stored the reticle. PRI discloses a reticle management system for complete reticle lifecycle management (PRI, page 1-2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an attribute identifying a user identifier who last selected the reticle; and an attribute identifying a user identifier who last stored the reticle in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

As per claim 8, Lambson and Burdick teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, except for explicitly disclosing the data corresponding to each of the plurality of reticles stored in the central reticle database includes a plurality of reticle maintenance data. PRI discloses the data corresponding to each of the plurality of reticles stored in the central reticle

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database includes a plurality of reticle maintenance data (PRI, page 1-2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

As per claim 9, Lambson and Burdick teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 8, except for explicitly disclosing a plurality of reticle maintenance data includes: an attribute identifying the number of times the reticle has been cleaned; an attribute identifying the date on which the reticle was last cleaned; an attribute identifying the number of times the reticle was inspected; and an attribute identifying the date on which the reticle was last inspected. PRI discloses a reticle management system for complete reticle lifecycle management (PRI, page 1-2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an attribute identifying the number of times the reticle has been cleaned; an attribute identifying the date on which the reticle was last cleaned; an attribute identifying the number of times the reticle was inspected; and an attribute identifying the date on which the reticle was last inspected in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

As per claim 10, Lambson and Burdick teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 9, except for explicitly disclosing an attribute identifying a user identifier who last cleaned the reticle; an attribute identifying a location where the reticle was last cleaned; an attribute identifying a user identifier who last inspected the reticle; and an attribute identifying a location where the reticle was last inspected. PRI discloses a reticle management system for complete reticle lifecycle management and reticle cleaning (PRI, page 1-2). It would have been

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obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an attribute identifying a user identifier who last cleaned the reticle; an attribute identifying a location where the reticle was last cleaned; an attribute identifying a user identifier who last inspected the reticle; and an attribute identifying a location where the reticle was last inspected in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

As per claim 12, Lambson and Burdick teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 11, except for explicitly disclosing an attribute identifying the maximum number of cleanings of a reticle; an attribute identifying the maximum number of inspections of a reticle; an attribute identifying the maximum number of uses of a reticle between inspections; and an attribute identifying the maximum number of uses of a reticle between cleaning. PRI discloses a reticle management system for complete reticle lifecycle management and reticle cleaning (PRI, page 1-2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an attribute identifying the maximum number of cleanings of a reticle; an attribute identifying the maximum number of inspections of a reticle; an attribute identifying the maximum number of uses of a reticle between inspections; and an attribute identifying the maximum number of uses of a reticle between cleaning in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

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As per claim 13, Lambson and Burdick teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 11, except for explicitly disclosing an attribute identifying the maximum time between inspections of a bare reticle; and an attribute identifying the maximum time between cleanings of a bare reticle. PRI discloses a reticle management system for complete reticle lifecycle management and reticle cleaning (PRI, page 1-2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an attribute identifying the maximum time between inspections of a bare reticle; and an attribute identifying the maximum time between cleanings of a bare reticle in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

As per claim 14, Lambson and Burdick teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 11, except for explicitly disclosing an attribute identifying the maximum time between inspections of a kitted reticle; and an attribute identifying the maximum time between cleanings of a kitted reticle. PRI discloses a reticle management system for complete reticle lifecycle management and reticle cleaning (PRI, page 1-2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an attribute identifying the maximum time between inspections of a kitted reticle; and an attribute identifying the maximum time between cleanings of a kitted reticle in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 20-22 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lambson et al. ("Lambson", "Automated reticle transport and stepper loading", Solid State Technology, V39, n10, p97, Oct. 1996, ISSN: 0038-111X).

As per claim 20, Lambson teaches an apparatus for managing data corresponding to a plurality of reticles in a semiconductor manufacturing system including a plurality of processing stages, the apparatus comprising:

a central reticle database configured and arranged to store data associated with each of the plurality of reticle (Lambson, page 1-3. This claim is different from other independent claim 1 and 16, because claim 1 and 16 point out that the central reticle database is a separate entity form the stocker database, while this independent claim claims a database stores reticle, but it does not point out the central reticle database is a separate entity form the stocker database); and

a reticle management controller coupled to the central reticle database, the reticle management controller configured and arranged to store and retrieve data from the central reticle database (Lambson, page 1-3).

As per claim 21, Lambson teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 20, and further teaches the data corresponding to each of the plurality of reticles stored in the central reticle database includes a plurality of reticle identifying data (Lambson, page 1-5).

As per claim 22, Lambson teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 21, and further teaches the plurality of reticle identifying data includes an attribute identifying the reticle; an attribute identifying the location of the reticle (Lambson, page 1-5).

As per claim 30, Lambson teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 20, and further teaches a central system database configured and arranged to store data corresponding to the system requirements of the plurality of reticles; and the reticle management controller coupled to the central system database, the reticle management controller configured and arranged to store and retrieve system data from the central system database (Lambson, page 1-5).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 23-29 and 31-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lambson et al. ("Lambson", "Automated reticle transport and stepper loading", Solid State Technology, V39, n10, p97, Oct. 1996, ISSN: 0038-111X) in view of "PRI Automation Automation Announces New Combination Reticle Stocker", ("PRI", PR Newswire, p9143, Oct 26, 1999).

As per claim 23, Lambson teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 3, except for explicitly disclosing an attribute identifying a reticle carrier housing the reticle; an

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attribute identifying a the date and time the reticle was entered into use; and an attribute identifying a user identifier who created the reticle. PRI discloses a reticle management system for complete reticle lifecycle management (PRI, page 1-2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an attribute identifying a reticle carrier housing the reticle; an attribute identifying a the date and time the reticle was entered into use; and an attribute identifying a user identifier who created the reticle in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

As per claim 24, Lambson teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, except for explicitly disclosing the data corresponding to each of the plurality of reticles stored in the central reticle database includes a plurality of reticle history data. PRI discloses the data corresponding to each of the plurality of reticles stored in the central reticle database includes a plurality of reticle history data (PRI, page 1-2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

As per claim 25, Lambson teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, except for explicitly disclosing an attribute identifying the number of times the reticle has been retrieved; an attribute identifying the date the reticle was last retrieved; an attribute identifying the number of times the reticle has been stored; and an attribute identifying the date the reticle was last stored. PRI discloses a reticle management system for complete reticle lifecycle management (PRI, page 1-2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at



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the time the invention was made to include an attribute identifying the number of times the reticle has been retrieved; an attribute identifying the date the reticle was last retrieved; an attribute identifying the number of times the reticle has been stored; and an attribute identifying the date the reticle was last stored in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

As per claim 26, Lambson teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, except for explicitly disclosing an attribute identifying a user identifier who last selected the reticle; and an attribute identifying a user identifier who last stored the reticle. PRI discloses a reticle management system for complete reticle lifecycle management (PRI, page 1-2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an attribute identifying a user identifier who last selected the reticle; and an attribute identifying a user identifier who last stored the reticle in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

As per claim 27, Lambson teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, except for explicitly disclosing the data corresponding to each of the plurality of reticles stored in the central reticle database includes a plurality of reticle maintenance data. PRI discloses the data corresponding to each of the plurality of reticles stored in the central reticle database includes a plurality of reticle maintenance data (PRI, page 1-2). Therefore, it would have been

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obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

As per claim 28, Lambson teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 8, except for explicitly disclosing a plurality of reticle maintenance data includes: an attribute identifying the number of times the reticle has been cleaned; an attribute identifying the date on which the reticle was last cleaned; an attribute identifying the number of times the reticle was inspected; and an attribute identifying the date on which the reticle was last inspected. PRI discloses a reticle management system for complete reticle lifecycle management (PRI, page 1-2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an attribute identifying the number of times the reticle has been cleaned; an attribute identifying the date on which the reticle was last cleaned; an attribute identifying the number of times the reticle was inspected; and an attribute identifying the date on which the reticle was last inspected in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

As per claim 29, Lambson teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 9, except for explicitly disclosing an attribute identifying a user identifier who last cleaned the reticle; an attribute identifying a location where the reticle was last cleaned; an attribute identifying a user identifier who last inspected the reticle; and an attribute identifying a location where the reticle was last inspected. PRI discloses a reticle management system for complete reticle lifecycle management and reticle cleaning (PRI, page 1-2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an attribute

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identifying a user identifier who last cleaned the reticle; an attribute identifying a location where the reticle was last cleaned; an attribute identifying a user identifier who last inspected the reticle; and an attribute identifying a location where the reticle was last inspected in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

As per claim 31, Lambson teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 11, except for explicitly disclosing an attribute identifying the maximum number of cleanings of a reticle; an attribute identifying the maximum number of inspections of a reticle; an attribute identifying the maximum number of uses of a reticle between inspections; and an attribute identifying the maximum number of uses of a reticle between cleaning. PRI discloses a reticle management system for complete reticle lifecycle management and reticle cleaning (PRI, page 1-2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an attribute identifying the maximum number of cleanings of a reticle; an attribute identifying the maximum number of inspections of a reticle; an attribute identifying the maximum number of uses of a reticle between inspections; and an attribute identifying the maximum number of uses of a reticle between cleaning in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

As per claim 32, Lambson teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 11, except for explicitly disclosing an attribute identifying the maximum time between

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inspections of a bare reticle; and an attribute identifying the maximum time between cleanings of a bare reticle. PRI discloses a reticle management system for complete reticle lifecycle management and reticle cleaning (PRI, page 1-2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an attribute identifying the maximum time between inspections of a bare reticle; and an attribute identifying the maximum time between cleanings of a bare reticle in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

As per claim 33, Lambson teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 11, except for explicitly disclosing an attribute identifying the maximum time between inspections of a kitted reticle; and an attribute identifying the maximum time between cleanings of a kitted reticle. PRI discloses a reticle management system for complete reticle lifecycle management and reticle cleaning (PRI, page 1-2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an attribute identifying the maximum time between inspections of a kitted reticle; and an attribute identifying the maximum time between cleanings of a kitted reticle in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine PRI with Lambson in order to manage the complete reticle lifecycle.

***Conclusion***

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Nakagawa et al. (6,370,440) disclose a reticle management system.

13. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

***Contact Information***

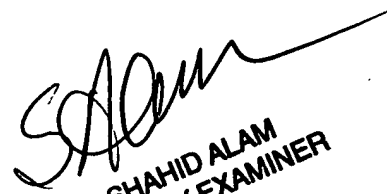
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chongshan Chen whose telephone number is 703-305-8319. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:00 am - 4:30 pm).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (703)305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

January 21, 2004

  
SHAHID ALAM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER